

'The Ambassadors of Death' sure is a challenge, and not just because of the difficulty I described, of integrating a spanking with the Season 7 UNIT professional scenario. Opportunities are scarce because, for most of the story, Liz is separated from the Doctor and acts as the leading character in her own strand of the plot. I don't think it would really work to have, for example, Reegan spanking her for trying to escape.

One radical solution would be to cheat and have a totally alternative version of Season 7, where Zoe has escaped with the Doctor at the end of 'The War Games' and joined him in exile. (I believe they were contemplating something like this at one time, before Wendy Padbury decided to leave with Troughton and Hines.) A character like Zoe in a military set-up would give a lot of scope for spankings. But I don't think a Liz fan like you would care for the idea... :-)

As always with difficult ones, I end up creating potential continuity problems with other stories, so let's take the following on its own merits. Which may be small, I'm afraid.

When the Doctor was exiled to Earth, the Time Lords blocked out his memory of time travel theory. There are also other things he knows he once knew and cannot remember. We see this in 'Ambassadors' when he knows the alien signal but can't place it. I'm going to assume this is a side-effect, not a deliberate limitation: the Time Lords want to deny him his freedom, not his memories. One of the things affected is his memory of spanking as a means to discipline his female companions. As a result, in previous stories he has had to use other, 'adult' means to resolve his disagreements with Liz, even though he knows there is a better way if only he could recall it.

At the start of the story as seen on TV, the Doctor is working on the TARDIS console, and there is all the by-play about traveling a few seconds into the future. In my version, he and Liz are working on the scanner, which he has likewise brought out into the laboratory. (This would explain why, in some of the early third Doctor stories, it appears as just a TV set hanging from the ceiling: the Doctor has not yet gotten around to putting it back into the wall.) He thinks he has managed to restore its properties as a time scanner (see the end of 'The Moonbase'), and asks Liz to look at the screen while he twiddles the circuitry. When the picture comes through, Liz cannot believe her eyes: it shows herself being spanked by the Doctor!

There's no doubt that it really is her. Even the purple mini-dress she wears on the screen is one she has hanging in her closet at home - one of her consciously sexy outfits which is covering even less than usual in this case. She doesn't recognize the laboratory where the spanking is taking place, though. She calls the Doctor over. The image jogs his memory: a useful way to deal with a recalcitrant assistant. She angrily switches off the picture as the spanking continues. Rather than challenge him on the idea of spanking her, Liz questions him about the practical dimension: is this event really going to happen in the future? The Doctor is non-committal: his memory of time theory is still vague, but he has heard something about alternative possible futures. Maybe the spanking will happen in only one of those. But it will most assuredly happen here if

she should ever deserve it, he concludes sternly. Liz's instinct to argue with him is stifled by her desire to see the Mars Probe coverage on the TV. At least she knows she has a chance of escaping...

On to the end of Part Three, when Liz gets kidnapped. Relations between her and the Doctor have been prickly because of his stated readiness to spank her, and matters come to a head over the Brigadier's message calling her and the Doctor to see the irradiated bodies. The Doctor says he needs Liz with him to work on the capsule, not gallivanting off after the Brigadier, and anyway he has a suspicion that the message was a forgery: the soldier who delivered it committed some trivial error of military procedure. Liz stubbornly insists on going anyway, and falls into Reegan's clutches, in the laboratory she recognizes from the time scanner. What's more, she is wearing the same clothes...

So we move on to the end of Part Six, when the Doctor arrives at the laboratory and makes his deal with Reegan. Once Reegan has left them, Liz starts to remonstrate with him, and he irritatedly explains that it's a decoy. She, however, has caused a great deal of trouble by getting herself kidnapped. Liz knows what the look in his eye means, but remembers what the Doctor said about alternative futures: she might still be able to avoid the inevitable. It's a panic reaction, because the door is locked: the Doctor chases her around the lab console, catches her and puts her across his knee. He flips up her skirt to reveal cream panties worn over dark tan pantyhose. (The contrast of dark legs and light bottom is very appealing.) As the spanking begins, Liz reflects that they seem to have disproved the theory of parallel universes. Little does she know...

She even has cause to regret switching off the scanner so quickly, for then at least she would know to expect General Carrington to arrive during the spanking. ('Doing your moral duty, eh, Doctor?') And she would know too that he won't be there to rescue them as she assumes.